

Pretz has extended the Pennsylvania distribution considerably northward in the local region. His collection is from the stone ballast of the Lehigh Valley Railroad near Slatington station.

From a comparison of the most outlying stations it will be seen that we now know the species to be fairly well distributed about Philadelphia over a radius of approximately sixty miles to the north, east, and west. The southernmost collection is at a distance of about thirty-five miles but there is every reason to believe that the plant occurs throughout southern New Jersey, and probably also considerably further south in Delaware than Delaware City.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA.

## PRICKLY LETTUCE.

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IN the fifth edition of Dr. Gray's Manual of Botany, published in 1868, this statement is made with reference to Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca Scariola*) "Waste grounds and roadsides Cambridge, Mass., Adv. from Europe." In a paper on the distribution of some weeds in the United States, etc., which I<sup>1</sup> published in 1891 the statement is made that it was first observed near Hovey's Garden in 1863-64. In the next edition of Gray's Manual by Watson and Coulter<sup>2</sup> the distribution is given "waste grounds and roadsides, Atlantic states to Missouri and Minnesota." In the next edition by Robinson and Fernald<sup>3</sup> the *L. Scariola* L. is said to occur as follows; "roadsides, railway ballast, etc., s. N. E. to O., Mo., and Ky., chiefly westw.," but even then less common than the following variety *integrata* Gren. & Godr. which is said to occur in "waste grounds and roadsides, across the continent; westw. an abundant and pernicious weed."

I have seen Prickly lettuce for a great many years. The plant so common in St. Louis in 1889, at Madison in 1883, La Crosse, Wisconsin, in 1886 and in Ames, Iowa, and elsewhere in Iowa in 1889 was the variety *integrata*. I saw the true *L. Scariola* common everywhere in California and the Salt Lake basin in 1898.

During the past season I have observed the species abundant at the

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Ia. Acad. of Sci. 2: 109.

<sup>2</sup> 6th. Ed. 304, 1889.

<sup>3</sup> 7th ed. 866, 1908.



following points; Des Moines, Dallas Center, Dubuque, Clinton, Keokuk, Corwith and Sioux-City, Iowa; Hamilton, LaSalle, Peoria, Zearing, East Dubuque, Illinois; Prairie DuChien and La Crosse, Wisconsin; Mitchell and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The var. *integrata* was the prevailing form at the following points; Forest City, Thompson, Spirit Lake, Lansing, Waukon, Postville, Sibley, Lake Park and Rock Rapids, Iowa, as well as Britt, Algona and McGregor, Iowa. This form seems to be able to hold its own better in Allamakee and Clayton county where the soil consists of clay. The *L. Scariola* seems to be adapted to conditions of drouth better than the var. *integrata*. This, I think, accounts for its abundance in the west.

The purpose of writing this note is to call attention to the rapid disappearance of the variety *integrata* from the flora of Iowa. Comparatively few of the plants can be seen at the present time in the vicinity of Ames. There were more in 1916 and 1917 than this year and I saw more in Warren county, south of Des Moines this year than in Ames. In place of this variety we have the typical form of *L. Scariola* in great abundance. It is a terrible pest in the gardens. The species proper, that is to say the form with deeply lobed leaves, was in Iowa first observed on the Lincoln Highway near the college campus at Ames in June, 1909. I have seen it increase in numbers until now it occupies every vacant lot and field. These two kinds of prickly lettuce certainly show how one plant is much more aggressive than the other. Interesting hybrids between prickly lettuce and garden lettuce are reported in Iowa.

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#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FLORAL AREAS.

IN the spring of 1917 a committee was appointed, at the suggestion of Prof. M. L. Fernald, to study the distribution of New England plants in detail, to see if it were possible to map definite floral areas. Interleaved check-lists were prepared for the more active collectors, so that casual observations as well as specimens collected could be at hand. The larger New England herbaria and the local floras available have also been included in our labors.